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SUNDAY READING.

NOAH.

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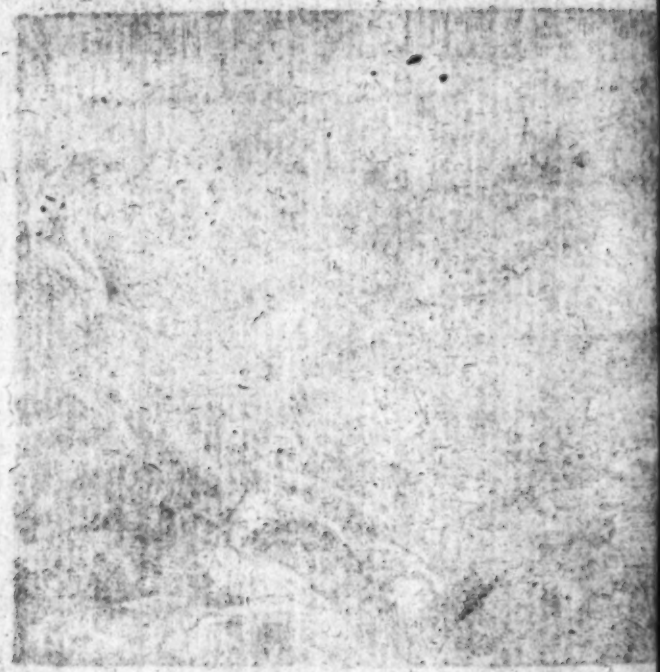

NOAH.

OAH was a great and important character, moſt remarkable in Hiſtory, and a very ſingular of the Saviour of the world.

he name of Noah ſignifies *reſt*: ſin produced tion and diſtreſs; pain of body and anguiſh of , preſent ſuffering and future apprehenſion: but *ah* was promiſed, the prince of peace, who was ve peace.

oah was commanded to build an ark to ſave all ſhould be ſaved; all that would take refuge in o Chriſt built his Church in which alone ſalva- could be found.

There was no ſafety when the rains deſcende the winds blew, and the cataracts of heaven we opened, but in the ark of Noah: In vain were t ſtrongeſt buildings and the loftieſt mountains ſoug for, for the waters undermined the foundations palaces and towers, and the riſing waves aſce the tops of the mountains.

The works of art, the magnificence of princ the comfort and ſecurity of life, are all comfound and deſtroyed. While Noah built an ark othe might have done the ſame; but when the warni was given they deſpiſed it; ſpace for repentance w allowed, but they refuſed to repent: when th judgment was come it was too late to ſeek mercy: when vengeance was gone forth, there no way to eſcape. The night of tribulation come, and the day of grace for ever cloſed. windows of heaven are opened, and the foundati of earth tremble, Uncommon darkneſs porte the dreadful ſtorm, thunderings and lightenin whirlpools and hurricans ſeem to blend heaven a earth together. How dreadful muſt it have been to a whole world in ruins! to hear the cries of diſtre the groans of deſpair, the anguiſh of miſery, wh the earth was ſwept with the beſom of deſtructi when the right-aiming thunderbolt ſhook terri the ſtrong foundations!

But how much more dreadful will be the eter deſtruction of ſinners! The laſt vengeance and long continuance, when they loſe, and loſe for ev not only earth but heaven; not only a tempo but an eternal life! when the wicked are confou ed with an everlaſting confuſion; when they ſevered for ever from the righteous: when the co mon comforts and enjoyments of life are no mor

Thouſands and ten thouſands might have taken
e ſame warning which Noah did: they might have
ved their bodies and their ſouls alive. Long was
e period of divine forbearance. Slow was the
tion of unwilling vengeance. Puniſhments is
ſtrange work of the God of all conſolation.
hat mercy could do mercy did accompliſh. The
ſt High delighteſt not in the deſtruction of the
rk of his hands. He giveth all ſpace for repen-
te, if they will but avail themſelves of it.
Noah was to preſerve life, to raiſe a new world.
So Chriſt alone can preſerve all real life, and
ſe into the new world of ſpiritual being obedi-
ce and happineſs. He can preſerve us in the
ns of time, and ſecure our peace in the region of
rnity.
Noah built the ark: nothing could divert him
m that one neceſſary and important work. He
countered every oppoſition which ignorance, folly,
elief and impiety could raiſe againſt him; but
he perſevered. He was not conformed to this
ld, and this world did not love him: he did not
the ſame exceſs of riot.
n like manner Chriſt's kingdom was not of this
ld. He condemned the wickedneſs of it, and
ed men to enter into the ark of his church as the
y poſſible means to eſcape from the corruptions
ch were in the world.
Chriſt is a refuge from the ſtorm; a ſhadow from
heat. Man's miſery is from himſelf, and Chriſt
e to ſave him from himſelf, to raiſe him to a
er ſtate.
Noah builds an ark, and Chriſt forms a church:
periſh who are not in the ark; or muſt periſh
o are not in the church of Chriſt.

What the *ark* was to the family of *Noah* ſo is t
church to the whole world.

As none could be ſaved except thoſe who we
in the ark, ſo none can be eternally ſaved exce
they are in the church of Chriſt.

The ark was the only ſecurity for thoſe in the o
world; it was their ſecurity and only protectio
thus alſo is the church of Chriſt the ſecurity an
protection of all who enter in.

The ark alone ſurvived that dreadful ſtorm, an
roſe, as it were, from the ruins of the old world.

The ark of Chriſt alone ſurvived the dreadf
ſtorm of divine vengeance: there was no ſafety b
there; the foundations of the earth ſhook, the mou
tains were diſſolved, and the rocks rent aſunde
death and deſtruction came upon all the reſt, li
the deſtroying angel who paſſed through Egyp

There is no other name given unto men whereb
they may be ſaved but the name of Jeſus Chriſt.

The church is the true houſe of refuge, where a
may flee and be protected. Its doors are ope
night and day. They who are ſheltered in th
ſhall ride in ſafety in the ſtorm; ſhall not be devou
ed by the ſwelling flood; ſhall not be conſumed i
everlaſting darkneſs, and at length attain the re
where it would be.

The ark is at firſt ſubject to ſtorms and tempeſt
The church is militant before ſhe is triumphant
She muſt firſt conquer her enemies before ſhe ca
ſit down in peace: She has vowed an eternal enmit
againſt ſin: She has proclaimed a war which know
no truce, no conpoſition; ſin muſt be deſtroyed be
fore Chriſt the heavenly Father can be worſhipped
in ſpirit and in truth.

In the ark they might ſuppoſe that the might

ters would never abate, that the fair face of aven and the ſolid foundation of earth would ver be ſeen again; but ſtill they muſt perſevere: y muſt wait with patience: The ark as well as the urch was the habitation of faith and patience: It is y by patience that faith is made perfect: The church dures through the ſtorms of affliction, the nights temptation, and the long day of trial and fatigue: r beginnings may be obſcure, but her end ſhall glorious: She now appears toſſed with tempeſts d afflicted; a ſubject of the winds and waves, a al ſtranger to peace and comfort; ſhedding tears ſorrow, and drinking the water of affliction, ſhe lows Chriſt as the man of ſorrows, and acquainted h grief before ſhe is admitted to ſee the King Glory, and to ſhine in his light. The croſs ads to the crown. Sufferings are the royal high- y to Glory: ſorrows and chaſtiſement, the frowns the world, the perſecution of the wicked, are the arks of the children of the kingdom. Jeſus will try d correct thoſe whom he loves: The furnace ſt ſeparate the droſs from the fine gold.

The ſon of Syrac thus celebrates *Noah*. Noah s found perfect and righteous in the time of rath, he was taken in exchange for the world, there- re was he left a remnant unto the earth when the od came. An everlaſting covenant was made ith him, that all fleſh ſhould periſh no more by the od.

How much truer and more perfect are theſe ords when underſtood of the true Noah, He who as taken in exchange of the world.

At length the ark reſts on the mountain of Ara- t: the ſtorms ceaſe. So the church of Chriſt is t always to be militant, it is not always to ſtruggle

with the temptations, but at last will rest on
mountains of heavenly salvation.

The Rainbow in the heavens was the sure and
tain sign to Noah, that no such destruction ag
should destroy the earth or the church.

Jesus is seated on his throne of almighty tr
cendent Majesty. There is a rainbow round
bout the Throne. His mercy is on every
The center and the circumference is the purest lo
The divine Man, the compassionate Jesus, the
parental Parent, has not only bowels of compass
but wherever his power extends there his mercy
bestowed. There is the Rainbow round about
Throne. As the clouds, the storms and temp
could not efface the Bow of Noah, much less
any thing efface the heavenly Bow, the Rainb
like unto an Emerald round about the Throne
the Lord Jesus.

THE END.

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